

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 OC-06 CCO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 ACDA-19

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2552

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0242

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT AO PO

SUBJECT: LUANDA SITREP, 1600 HOURS, APRIL 26

1. UNCONFIRMED REPORT GOVGEN SANTOS E CASTRO HAS ALREADY YIELDED TO SECGEN SOARES CARNEIRO, LT COL ARMY, IN ACCORDANCE SPINOLA'S ANNOUNCEMENT (THOUGH LATTER IMPLIED TRANSFER OF POWER TO TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING DESIGNATION NEW CABINET). AS OF 11 A.M. SANTOS E CASTRO AND STAFF WERE "AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS" FROM JUNTA, ACCORDING TO ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE SOURCES. VISITING SECRETARY OF AIR GENERAL POLLERI HAS BEEN DISMISSED.

2. CITY REMAINS CALM. TROOPS NOT ON ALERT NOR CONFINED TO BARRACKS. ONLY SIGNS OF CHANGED SITUATION IS CROWD WHICH HAS BEEN JAMMING AREA IN VICINITY ANGOLA'S CHIEF NEWSPAPER "PROVINCIA" AWAITING LATEST NEWS FROM METROPOLE. NEWS CONTACTS SAY THEY ROUTINELY SUBMITTED PROOFS FOR TODAY'S PAPERS CONTAINING FULL ACCOUNTS DEVELOPMENTS IN LISBON PLUS TEXTS OF COMMUNIQUE, STATEMENTS, ETC. OF JUNTA LEADERS TO CENSORSHIP BUT LATTER APPROVED WITHOUT ANY CHANGE. (ONE PUBLISHED REPORT IDENTIFIED SPINOLA AS FORMER
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GOVERNOR OF "GUINEA-BISSAU.")

3. NO INSURGENT ACTIVITY KNOWN TO HAVE OCCURRED IN ANGOLA DURING PAST 24 HOURS, ACCORDING TO SOURCE IN HIGH COMMAND.

4. RADIO BRAZZAVILLE AND KINSHASA BROADCAST INCENDIARY REPORTS (FABRICATIONS, E.G. OF RIOTING IN LUANDA) TO NATIVE POPULACE FOR SEVERAL HOURS APRIL 25. ACCORDING TO LOCAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCE RADIO KINSHASA HAS ANNOUNCED HOLDEN ROBERTO REGARDS LISBON COUP AS MEANINGLESS TO LIBERATION STRUGGLE, AND SEES IT AS SQUABBLE AMONG PORTUGUESE. IN CONTRAST RADIO BRAZZAVILLE REPORTEDLY CEASED PROVOCATIVE BROADCASTS LAST NIGHT FOLLOWING SPINOLA'S PROCLAMATION WHICH IT HAS CARRIED VERBATIM WITHOUT ELABORATION. (COMMENT: LATTER SEEN AS INDICATION NETO-MPLA UNLIKE UPA MAY WISH TO KEEP DOOR OPEN TO FUTURE NORMALIZATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN ANGOLA.)

5. ACCORDING TO NON-WHITE SOURCES (INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT) LUANDA'S BLACKS ALLEGEDLY EXCITED OVER EVENTS IN LISBON AND HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF EARLY AND THOROUGH POLITICAL CHANGE HERE. SOURCES PREDICT NEGATIVE REACTIONS AMONG BLACKS WHEN (AS THEY ASSUME) EXPECTATIONS WILL NOT BE IMMEDIATELY FULFILLED. (COMMENT: SUCH EXCITEMENT, IF IT EXISTS, IS TOTALLY MASKED.)

6. MIDDLE-ECHELON MILITARY SOURCES AND BUSINESSMAN CONTACTS APPEARED EUPHORIC EVENING APRIL 25; SOMEWHAT SOBERED BY MIDDAY APRIL 26. CONSENSUS AMONG ALL CANVASSED TODAY: HOPE THAT END OF DICTATORSHIP HAS REALLY COME, REGRET IT HAD TO COME BY COUP, AND CONCERN OVER HOW LIBERALIZATION CAN BE KEPT SUFFICIENTLY UNDER CONTROL TO ENSURE ORDERLY PROGRESS TOWARD "GENUINE AUTONOMY." THOUGHTFUL RELATIVELY SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER COMMENTED TO US THAT "EVERYONE" WAS FED UP WITH 13 YEAR WAR AND CHANGE HAD TO COME BUT EXPRESSED FEAR OF "VENGEANCE" BY POPULACE (MEANING WHITES), HERE AND IN METROPOLE AFTER 40 PLUS YEARS OF BEING KICKED AROUND, I.E., BY DGS. SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE EMPHASIZED TO US THEIR BELIEF MOST IMPORTANT WORD IN SPINOLA'S APRIL 25 PROCLAMATION IS "PLURICONTINENTAL"(AS DEFINING NATION WHICH JUNTA WILL GUARANTEE).

7. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT GROUP OF CAPTAINS AND MAJORS HAS HELD REGULAR POLITICAL MEETINGS HERE SINCE EARLY 1972 TO
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PLAN FOR EVENTUALITY SUCH AS THIS COUP. THEY SAID TO BE DIRECTLY LINKED TO GROUP WHICH ACTED IN METROPOLE APRIL 25. GEN COSTA GOMES WHEN HE WAS CINC ANGOLA APPROVED GROUP'S ACTIVITIES; GEN LUZ CUNHA KNEW OF ITS EXISTENCE AND EXTENDED IT "SEMI-OFFICIAL" STATUS. SO FAR, THIS GROUP HAS NOT SURFACED PUBLICLY IN ANGOLA.

8. TOTALLY ABSENT IS ANY OPEN SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF UDI. EVEN THOUGH NO SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS

BEING IN CHARGE HERE GIVING LUANDA WEIRD SENSE OF SUSPENDED
ANIMATION, POPULACE APPEARS WILLING PASSIVELY TO ASSUME ARMY AS
JUNTA'S REPRESENTATIVE IS GUARANTOR OF ITS SECURITY.
BRIGGS

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